

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 AF-04 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14735

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, XF, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AND BRITISH VIEWS ON PLO AND PALESTINIAN
GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

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1. ACCORDING TO FCO DEPARTMENT HEAD CRAIG, FRENCH TOLD

EC MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS' MEETING IN PARIS LAST WEEK THAT, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO PARIS, SOVIET VICE MINISTER ZEMSKOV HAD MADE A COUPLE OF INTERESTING COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION. FIRST, HE SAID IF ARABS IN ASKING FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND SHOULD PUT AT RISK ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXISTENCE, THE USSR WOULD HAVE TO REEXAMINE ITS POSITION. SECOND, WHEN ASKED BY FRENCH WHAT WOULD BE SOVIET POLICY TOWARD A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, ZEMSKOV SAID SOVIETS WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THAT GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM.

2. CRAIG THOUGHT IT MODERATELY SIGNIFICANT THAT A SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE SO SPECIFIC ON THESE QUESTIONS. BEYOND THAT CRAIG GAVE US HIS OPINION THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE ANNOUNCED ANYTIME SOON. HE SAID ROUILLON, HIS "OPPOSITE NUMBER" AT QUAI D'ORSAY, SHARED THIS ESTIMATE. THEY BOTH BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT SUIT ARAFAT'S PURPOSE TO SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS FALLING ON A GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE.

SPIERS

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